

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 26 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Silane coupling agents useful for the treatment of inorganic oxide particles as described above include ~~3-aminopropyltriethoxysilane, 3-aminopropyltrimethoxysilane, 3-aminopropyldiethoxymethylsilane, 3-aminopropyldimethoxymethylsilane, 3-aminopropylethoxydimethylsilane, 3-aminopropylmethoxydimethylsilane, N-(2-aminoethyl)-3-aminopropyltrimethoxysilane, N-(2-aminoethyl)-3-aminopropyltriethoxysilane, N-(2-aminoethyl)-3-aminopropylmethyldimethoxysilane, N-(2-aminoethyl)-3-aminopropylmethyldiethoxysilane, 4-aminobutyltriethoxysilane, 4-aminobutyltrimethoxysilane, N-(2-aminoethyl)-3-aminoisobutylmethyldimethoxysilane, N-(trimethoxysilylethyl)benzyl-N,N,N-trimethylammonium chloride, N-trimethoxysilylpropyl-N,N,N-tributylammonium chloride, octadecyldimethyl(3-trimethoxysilylpropyl)ammonium chloride, N-(3-triethoxysilylpropyl)-4,5-dihydroimidazole, and other silane coupling agents listed in Gelest, Inc. catalogue, pp.105-259(1998). Most preferred silane coupling agents for the treatment of inorganic oxide particles used in the invention include N-(trimethoxysilylethyl)benzyl-N,N,N-trimethylammonium chloride, N-trimethoxysilylpropyl-N,N,N-tributylammonium chloride, octadecyldimethyl(3-trimethoxysilylpropyl)ammonium chloride, or N-(3-triethoxysilylpropyl)-4,5-dihydroimidazole. --~~